



RECEIVED

SEP 29 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TECH CENTER 1600/2000

Appl. No. : 09/887,642
Applicant : Buchanan, et al.
Filed : June 22, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1626
Examiner : L. Stockton

Confirmation No. 7135

Docket No. : 2001B052
Customer No. : 23455

MAIL STOP RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action, dated May 23, 2003, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and remarks in the above-identified application. Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Petition to Extend Time for a period of one month, from August 23, 2003, the date now set, up to and including September 23, 2003, along with the authorization for the requisite fee. Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination along with the authorization for the requisite fee.